

1. UN Convention on Biological Diversity

Topic: Environment and Ecology



Convention on Biological Diversity

In News: The 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

More on the Topic

- The framework has **23 targets that the world needs to achieve by 2030.**
- **COP15 had representatives of 188 governments** on site and agreed on the framework that hopes to arrest the ongoing loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity.
- Clear indicators to measure progress have been set to avoid the failure as seen in the Aichi Targets.
- The countries will **monitor and report every five years or less on a large set of indicators related to progress.**
- The CBD will combine national information submitted by late February 2026 and late June 2029 into global trend and progress reports.
- **The Global Environment Facility** has been requested to establish a **Special Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework ("GBF Fund")**. This is to ensure successful implementation.
- Delegates have agreed **to establish within the GBF a multilateral fund for the equitable sharing of benefits between providers and users of digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI)**, to be finalised at COP16 in Türkiye in 2024.

The framework's four overarching global goals:

- **Goal A-** The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050.
- **Goal B-** Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed, and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced. Restore the biodiversity which is declining.

- **Goal C-** Ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is protected.
- **Goal D-** Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year.

UN Convention on Biological Diversity:

- It is also known as Biodiversity Convention. It is a multilateral treaty which is opened for signature on 5 June **1992 in Rio De Janeiro**. Entered into force in 1993 It is legally binding
- India plays an active part in this treaty. **India is a party to convention**. USA has signed but not ratified.
- **Secretariat:** The CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada, and it operates under the United Nations Environment Programme.

Convention has 3 main goals :

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of its components; and
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources

Source: Indian Express

2. "Frontier Highway"



Topic: International Relations

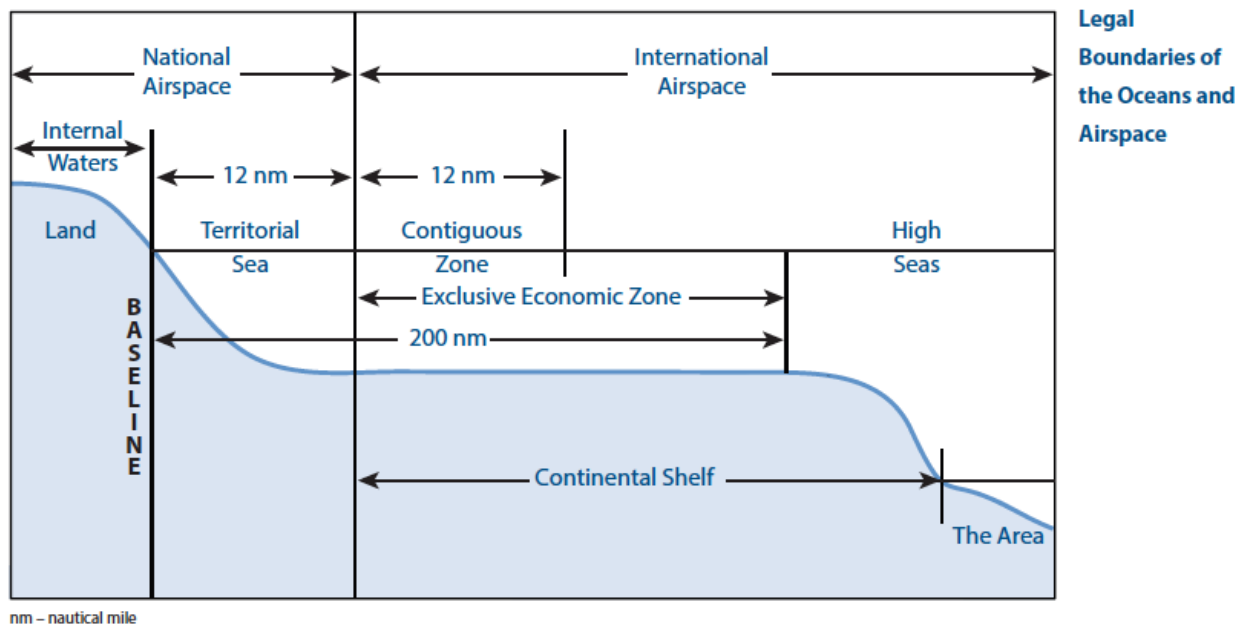
In News: Lok Sabha passes Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill to make special provisions for repression of piracy on high seas.

More on the Topic:

- The Bill enables Indian authorities to take action against piracy in the high seas. It applies to the sea beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which is beyond 200 nautical miles from India's coastline.
- The highway will be designated as NH-913 and is the longest such highway to be notified by the Centre in the recent past.
- **It will help defence forces and equipment travel to the border** with ease and also aims to stop the entry of immigrants from border areas.
- The clash between Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control in northeastern India's Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang Sector on December 9 has evoked strong political reactions in India.
- **Bomdila will serve as the starting point of the highway.** It will then pass through Nafra, Huri and Monigong, the closest point on the India-Tibet border.
- **Jido and Chenquenty**, the points closest to the China border, will also be covered by the highway. It will terminate at Vijaynagar, near India-Myanmar border.
- **Nearly 800km of the corridor will be greenfield** as there is no existing road on these stretches.
- There will be some bridges and tunnels as well.

Source: PIB

3. Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill



Topic: Polity and Governance

In News: Lok Sabha has passed the Anti-Maritime piracy bill, 2019.

More on the Topic:

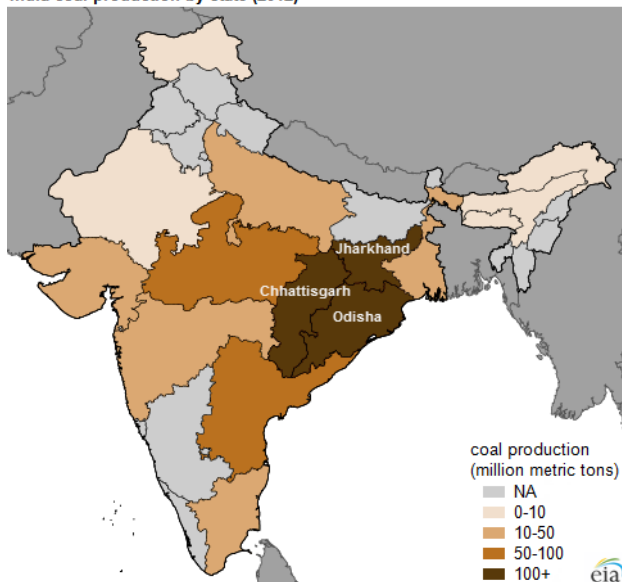
- The Bill enables **Indian authorities to take action against piracy in the high seas.**
- It applies to the **sea beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**, which is beyond 200 nautical miles from India's coastline.
- **Definition of Piracy:** The Bill defines piracy as any illegal act of violence, detention or destruction against a ship, aircraft, person or property, for private purposes, by the crew or passengers of a private ship or aircraft.
- **Piracy also includes inciting and intentionally facilitating such acts of violence, and voluntarily participating in the operation of a pirate ship or aircraft.**
- It enables Indian authorities to take action against piracy on **the high seas that is beyond EEZ (200 nautical miles).**
- **Punishment:** For committing acts of piracy – life imprisonment or death, if the act of piracy causes or seeks to cause death. If assisting piracy acts, up to 14 years of imprisonment and a fine.
- **Designated Courts:** Sessions Courts as notified by central govt after consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned HC.

Source: Hindu

4. India's Coal Production

Topic: Economy

India coal production by state (2012)





In News: The country is aiming to produce one billion tonnes of coal in the next financial year.

More on the Topic:

- India's **coal consumption has doubled since 2007** at an annual growth rate of 6 percent.
- It is set to continue to be the growth engine of global coal demand, **Coal 2022: Analysis and forecast to 2025.**
- India has the fourth largest coal reserves in the world.
- Global coal demand plateaus around the 2022 level of 8 billion tonnes through 2025.
- The majority of extracted coal is used for **electricity production**. The remaining coal is used for cement, steel and other industries.
- **India does not have enough reserves of good quality coal especially coking coal** that is used as a raw material in steel making and allied industries.
- Most of it is imported from **Indonesia, South Africa, Russia and Australia.**

Coal and Environmental Promises:

- India is developing coal mines despite the Union government's international pledge to achieve net zero emissions by 2070.
- India, in its **nationally determined contributions, announced a target to cut 1 billion tonne carbon emissions by 2030** and reduce the carbon intensity of the economy to less than 45 percent.
- However, Coals' domestic and global phaseout is also nowhere in sight, given the demand for it.

Types of Coal:

- The four types of coal are **peat, lignite, bituminous, and anthracite**, with the high heat content of anthracite being the most desirable.
- Coke is a **high-carbon product obtained by the destructive distillation of coal**. Coke is greyish-black in colour and is a hard, porous solid.
- Coal tar is obtained as a by-product in the process of making coke.
- **Coking coal, is a grade of coal that can be used to produce good-quality coke.**
- Coke is one of the **key irreplaceable inputs for the production of steel.**
- Petroleum coke is a byproduct of the oil refining process.

Source: Indian Express

5. Bio-insecticide from 'ramphal' leaves



Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics intern has awarded for developing bio-insecticide from 'ramphal' leaves.

More on the Topic:

- Extracts from its leaves may be useful against three destructive pests such as Pod borer, Green peach aphid and fall armyworm with a mortality rate of 78-88%.
- **Pod borer (*Helicoverpa armigera*) alone may cause losses worth more than \$300 million (over Rs 24 billion) annually.**
- Green peach aphid (*Myzus persicae*) causes **38-42 per cent yield loss in various crops and fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) causes 21-53 per cent losses in the absence of pest management.**
- The fall armyworm impact on Indian agriculture was considerable. So much so that the country had to import maize to meet the poultry and animal feed industry's demand after the pest destroyed its maize crop in 2018.

Ramphal:

- Ramphal is a seasonal fruit which is also known as the as bullock's heart. It usually grows in the regions of **Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and West Bengal.**
- Apart from the great taste, it has many medicinal and therapeutic benefits.

Source: Business Standard

6. Betta-Kuruba community



Topic: Culture

In News: Lok Sabha has passed Bill to include Betta-Kuruba community in ST category.

More on the Topic:

- Once the Bill is approved by Parliament, the Betta-Kuruba community will be entitled to all benefits which are provided to the members of the Scheduled Tribes, especially reservation in educational institutions and government jobs.
- The Betta Kuruba tribe lives in the hilly regions of Karnataka and is one of the few indigenous communities of the Nilgiris.
- They are generally believed to be the descendants of the Pallavas.
- They belong to the **Hindu caste native to the Indian states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.**
- Traditionally, the Kuruba people **drew sustenance from hunting, gathering and collecting wild honey.**
- They practised sheep/goat and cattle pastoralism, in that they either herded exclusively sheep, or a mixed herd of sheep and goats, or cattle.

Source: Business Standard

7. 'Oran Land'

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Residents from around 40 villages of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan have walked 225 kilometres to protect community-conserved sacred spaces known as 'orans'.

More on the Topic:

- The orans are sacred spaces among the last natural habitats of the great Indian bustard.
- The open stretch of land, which receives long hours of sunlight and brisk winds, has become a hub of green energy with windmills and solar photovoltaic dotting it.
- These orans are **hotspots of biodiversity with trees and flowers like rohida, bordi, kumbhat, and desi babool in large numbers, the letter added.**
- There are making these grasslands home to more than 250 species of birds and animals, including the great Indian bustard, McQueen bustard, chinkara, Indian desert cat, desert fox, etc.

Source: Hindu
